

Message Text

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70

ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FMC-04

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 L-03 DOTE-00 EUR-25

NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 /102 R

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R 301923Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, VE, US

SUBJECT: MERCHANT MARINE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT LAW

REF: A) CARACAS 6365; B) STATE 84916

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY DOT AND ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY CORPORATION RE POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECT CARGO RESERVATION MEASURES OF THE GOV MERCHANT MARINE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT LAW WILL HAVE ON GREAT LAKES TRADE THROUGH THE SEAWAY. THEY PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT APPLICATION OF LAW WILL RESULT IN DIVERSION OF VENEZUELAN DESTINED CARGO AWAY FROM GREAT LAKE PORTS TO DETRIMENT OF US SHIPPERS AND GREAT LAKES TRANSCARIBBEAN LINES (WEST GERMAN FLAG), THE ONLY COMPANY PROVIDING GREAT LAKES SERVICE TO AND FROM VENEZUELA. PROTOS SHIPPING COMPANY, CHICAGO AGENTS FOR THE WEST GERMAN LINES, INDICATES THAT WHILE IT STILL TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER CARGO IS BEING OR WILL BE

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DIVERTED, A RECENTLY-BOOKED INTERNATIONAL

HARVESTER SHIPMENT WAS WITHDRAWN FOR YET TO BE DETERMINED REASONS. AGENTS PLAN TO KEEP CLOSE WATCH ON LINES' VENEZUELA CARGO MOVEMENTS AND ADVISE DEPARTMENT PERIODICALLY RE POSSIBLE IRREGULARITIES, PARTICULARLY ANY FALL-OFF IN NORMAL SHIPMENTS TO THE VENEZUELAN SUBSIDIARIES OF INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER (INTERSAN), CHRYSLER AND AMERICAN MOTORS.

2. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO INFORMALLY CONTACT APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF ABOVE COMPANIES TO ASCERTAIN IF THEY HAVE UNDERTAKEN OR ARE CONTEMPLATING CHANGES IN THE ROUTING OF CARGOES NORMALLY SHIPPED OUT OF GREAT LAKES PORTS AS A RESULT OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE LAW AND/OR INDIRECT PRESSURE ON THE PART OF THE GOV TO SHIP VIA U.S. OCEAN PORTS SERVED BY VENEZUELAN FLAG VESSELS. EMBASSY MAY ALSO DISCUSS THIS MATTER INFORMALLY WITH GOV OFFICIALS TO INDICATE USG CONCERN OVER SUCH AN EVENTUALITY FOR REASONS SET FORTH PARA 2 OF REFTEL B AND IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN INDICATION OF GOV POSITION RE CARGO DIVERSION UNDER NEW LAW. ROGERS

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